

Rural District of Malmesbury

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1948

Public Health Officers of the Authority :

(a) Medical Officer of Health—

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D., D.P.H.

(b) Sanitary Inspector—

R. S. PIERCE, C.S.I.B.

Meat and other Food Inspectors Certificate, R.S.I.

(c) Additional Sanitary Inspector—

D. B. FOXWELL, C.S.I.B.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Malmesbury Rural District Council.**

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1948. This report is based on Ministry of Health Circular 3/49 dated 17th January, 1949.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Vital Statistics for 1948.

| | | |
|--|-------|---------|
| Area (in acres) | ..... | 58,129 |
| Population (1948) | ..... | 9,330 |
| No. of Inhabited Houses (end of 1948 according to Rate Book) | ..... | 2,584 |
| Rateable Value | ..... | £45,655 |
| Sum represented by penny rate | ..... | £187 |

| | M | F | Total | Rate per 1000 | Rate per 1000 E&W |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|-------------------------|
| LIVE BIRTHS— | | | | | |
| Legitimate | 69 | 83 | 152 | | |
| Illegitimate | 8 | 2 | 10 | | |
| Total | 77 | 85 | 162 | | |
| Birth Rate | | | | 17.3 | 17.9 |
| STILL BIRTHS— | 1 | 1 | 2 | .21 | .42 |
| DEATHS— | 56 | 40 | 96 | | |
| Death Rate | | | | 10.2 | 10.8 |
| DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES— | | | | | |
| Puerperal Sepsis | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Other Maternal Causes | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR—

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|------|
| All Infants per 1000 live births | 2 | 2 | 4 | 24.6 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births | 1 | 0 | 1 | |

DEATHS FROM—

| | | | |
|--|----|----|----|
| Cancer (all ages) | 13 | 7 | 20 |
| Measles (all ages) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough (all ages) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diarrhœa (under 2 years) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Respiratory Diseases (21, 22, 23) | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Heart Diseases and Blood Vessels (18, 19, 20) | 23 | 15 | 38 |

There is a decrease in the birth rate and a slight diminution in the death rate as compared with 1947 when they were 23.2 and 10.7 respectively. There is however a marked decrease in the death rate of infants under 1 year as compared with 1947 when the death rate per 1000 live births was 43.6.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) occurring in the District during the year 1948.

| Disease | Total cases notified | Cases admitted to Hospital |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | 6 |
| Diphtheria | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 46 | 0 |
| Measles | 59 | 0 |
| Poliomyelitis | 0 | 0 |
| Typhoid Fever | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 0 | 0 |
| Dysentery | 1 | 1 |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | 0 | 0 |
| Erysipelas | 0 | 0 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 0 | 0 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 0 | 0 |

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified during the year, as compared with five cases during 1947. The one case of Diphtheria notified was not confirmed.

Deaths from all causes.

| Cause | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Typhoid and parat. fevers | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping cough | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis of resp. sys. | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other forms of tuberculosis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Syphilitic diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ac. polio-myel. and polio-enceph. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ac. inf. enceph. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph. (M) uterus (F) | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Cancer of breast | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cancer of all other sites | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| Diabetes | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| Heart diseases | 14 | 10 | 24 |
| Other dis. of circ. sys. | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Other resp. diseases | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Diarrhœa, under 2 years | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Appendicitis | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other digve. dis. | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Nephritis | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Puer. and post abort. sepsis | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other maternal causes | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Prem. birth | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Road traffic acc. | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Other violent causes | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| All other causes | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Total | 56 | 40 | 96 |

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality.

| Age Periods | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Respiratory M | Non-Respiratory F | Non-Respiratory M | Non-Respiratory F | Respiratory M | Respiratory F | Non-Respiratory M | Non-Respiratory F |
| 0 | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 15 | 3 | | | | | 1 | | |
| 25 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 35 | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | | | | |
| 65 | | | | | | | | |
| and upwards | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | |

Six cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, as compared with ten notifications received during 1947. There was one death due to tuberculosis during the year, as compared with five during 1947.

Water Supplies.

The following information concerning the Council's Water Undertakings and water supplies in the area has been supplied by Mr. C. G. Campbell, Water Manager.

The public water supplies throughout the area have been satisfactory both in quantity and quality.

The following supplies are taken in bulk from adjoining Authorities.

Chemical and bacteriological examinations and chlorinations are carried out at the respective sources.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Brinkworth | } | In bulk from Cricklade & Wootton Bassett R.D.C. |
| Dauntsey | | |
| Minety | | |
| Lea & Cleverton (part) | | |
| Great Somerford (part) | | |
| Sherston (bulk) | } | From West Gloucestershire Water Company |
| Luckington | | |
| Sopworth | | |
| Foxley & Norton (part) | | |
| St. Paul Without | } | In bulk from Malmesbury Borough Council |
| Malmesbury (part of special burial district) | | |

SUPPLIES FROM COUNCIL'S SOURCES.

| | Chemical | Bacteriological | Neither Chemical nor Bacteriological examinations show any evidences of pollution |
|--------------|----------|-----------------|---|
| Crudwell | 2 | 1 | |
| Hullavington | 1 | 2 | do. |
| Oaksey | 2 | 2 | do. |
| Corston | 1 | 2 | do. |

No treatment is carried out of the water at these sources, and there is no plumbo-solvent action.

The mains in a large area of this district are affected by "graphitization," presumably caused by Calcium Sulphate in the clay.

Number of dwelling-houses and the number of population supplied by public water mains:—

| Parish | No. of Dwellings | Population supplied | Direct to Houses | By Stand-pipes |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Sherston | 373 | 1492 | 306 | 67 |
| Brinkworth | 182 | 728 | 182 | — |
| Dauntsey | 83 | 332 | 83 | — |
| Minety | 173 | 692 | 173 | — |
| Hullavington | 94 | 376 | 94 | — |
| Oaksey | 59 | 236 | 35 | 24 |
| Crudwell | 83 | 332 | 83 | — |
| Malmesbury St. Paul Without | 154 | 616 | 139 | 15 |
| Lea & Cleverton | 49 | 196 | 49 | — |
| Foxley & Norton | 14 | 56 | 14 | — |
| Luckington | 45 | 180 | 45 | — |
| Sopworth | 29 | 116 | 29 | — |
| | 1338 | *5352 | 1232 | 106 |

* Average number per house taken as 4.

Approximately 200 houses are supplied from privately owned supplies, mainly from stand-pipes.

On the 2nd November, 1948, the Minister of Health held a Public Enquiry on the proposed water scheme to supply the villages of Corston and Rodbourne in the Parish of St. Paul Without.

The proposed scheme consisted of harnessing the springs in the Gauze Brook, Corston, the installation of pumping plant and the laying of a trunk main to the proposed elevated water tower at Rodbourne and thence to a point terminating at Rodbourne Bottom, with distributing mains throughout the two villages.

NEW WORKS.

During the year, a section of 6-in. main was laid from Hill House, Little Somerford, to the new housing site at Lea, and a 3-in. main laid from Dauntsey Vicarage to the new housing site at Great Somerford.

The majority of the properties on the route of these mains are now being supplied with water.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

VILLAGES WITH SEWERS AND DISPOSAL PLANTS.

Sewers and small obsolete disposal plants exist in the following parishes: Crudwell, St. Paul Without (Burton Hill) and Sherston.

VILLAGES WITH SEWERS BUT NO SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

Brinkworth, Hullavington, Lea and Cleverton, Luckington, Oaksey, St. Paul Without (Corston), Great Somerford, Little Somerford and Sopworth.

The undermentioned small individual disposal works are maintained by the Council.

| Parish | Address | No. of Houses | Means of Disposal |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|--|
| Brinkworth | The Street | 8 | Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation |
| Charlton | Vicarage Lane | 2 | Septic tank & filter bed |
| Crudwell | Tuners Lane | 16 | Settlement tank and filter bed |
| Dauntsey | The Green | 8 | Individual cesspits |
| „ | St. Johns | 4 | Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation |
| Great Somerford | Dauntsey Road | 6 | Individual cesspits |
| „ | „ | 10 | Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation |
| Hankerton | Nr. Post Office | 6 | Septic tank & filter bed |
| Hullavington | Newtown | 8 | Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation |
| Lea | Main Road | 12 | Individual cesspits |
| Lt. Somerford | Nr. Rly Station | 8 | ditto |
| Luckington | Church Road | 8 | ditto |
| „ | „ (new scheme) | 4 | Septic tank & filter bed |
| „ | Bristol Road | 8 | Individual cesspits |
| Minety | Station Road | 4 | ditto |
| „ | Sawyers Rise | 12 | Septic tank and filter |
| Norton | Foxley | 2 | Septic tank & filter bed |
| Oaksey | Wick Road | 8 | Individual cesspits |

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|----|---|
| St. Paul Without | Burton Hill | 2 | Sewer |
| „ | „ Bungalows | 14 | do. |
| „ | Exhibition Cott. | 1 | Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation |
| „ | Corston | 6 | ditto |
| Sherston | Knockdown Rd. | 12 | Sewer |
| „ | Green Lane | 16 | do. |
| „ | Easton Square | 20 | do. |
| „ | Church Close | 4 | Septic tank and sub-surface irrigation |
| „ | Perretts Close | 4 | ditto |
| Sopworth | Church View | 4 | ditto |

Messrs. Ross, Hooper & Harvey, the Council's Consulting Engineers, have prepared a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the greater part of the Rural District.

Housing and Sanitary Inspections.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Household refuse is collected and deposited at four tips: Old Brickworks, Brinkworth (owned by the Council), Oaksey, Knockdown and Hullavington (by arrangement with the owners).

Difficulties have been experienced due to the large proportion of bottles and tins collected and the small proportion of ashes and other suitable covering materials. No infestations by flies have been experienced.

Many householders continue to collect refuse in old boxes, sacks, baths and buckets which are not covered and are not suitable as refuse receptacles.

During the year the lorry covered 7754 miles on refuse collection in the Rural District.

Collections generally have been satisfactory.

Food.

MILK.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Number of producers in the area | 369 |
| Number of retailers in the area | 32 |
| Number of producers of T.T. milk | 48 |
| Number of producers of accredited milk | 41 |
| Number of inspections for the purpose of the Milk & Dairies Order | 422 |

There are no pasteurisation plants in the District. No Statutory action under the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926, was taken during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are five bakehouses in the Rural District, one each at Brinkworth, Lea and Minety, and two at Sherston. All bakehouses are clean and generally in good condition.

MEAT.

There is no slaughtering in the Rural District, all meat being delivered from Ministry of Food central slaughterhouses.

There are four butchers' shops in the District, which are generally in good condition. 145 lbs. of beef were condemned during the year under review.

FRIED FISH SHOPS.

One fried fish shop is registered and is satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of inspections | 12 |
| Number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream | 2 |
| Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale | 2 |

OTHER FOODSTUFFS.

The following foodstuffs were condemned during the year :—

81 tins various foodstuffs.
216 lbs. dried prunes.
4 jars of pickles.
2 lbs. marmalade.

Rodent Control.

The four refuse tips used by the Council have been treated for minor rat infestations with satisfactory results. Test baiting of the Sherston sewers showed no infestation.

Infestations.

Cases of infestation reported and dealt with were :—

| | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| Flies | ..... | 1 |
| Fleas | ..... | 1 |
| Lice | ..... | 1 |
| Wasps | ..... | 1 |

Disinfection was carried out following notification of seven cases of infectious disease :—

| | | |
|---------------|-------|---|
| Scarlet Fever | ..... | 5 |
| Diphtheria | ..... | 1 |
| Dysentery | ..... | 1 |

Housing.

The Rural Housing Survey has been completed. Details of inspections during the year under review are as follows:—

| | |
|--|------|
| Total No. of houses inspected and recorded | 1023 |
| " " placed in category 1 (fit) | 281 |
| " " " " 2 (minor defects) | 170 |
| " " " " 3 (major defects) | 291 |
| " " " " 4 (suitable for reconstruction) | 166 |
| " " " " 5 (unfit) | 115 |
| Total No. of inspections for the purpose of the Housing and Public Health Acts | 1171 |
| No Statutory notices have been served during the year | |
| No. of houses repaired as a result of informal action | 80 |

SUMMARY OF HOUSING AND SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1948

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of inspections in connection with sewers and sewage disposal | 71 |
| Number of inspections in connection with drains | 96 |
| The arrangements with the Town Council, to collect refuse in the Borough, ceased on the 31st March, and a twice monthly collection of refuse and salvage was introduced over the whole of the Rural District | |
| Number of inspections in connection with refuse collection and disposal | 70 |
| Number of inspections of shops and other food premises | 15 |
| Number of inspections of public houses | 28 |
| Number of visits in connection with rat infestations | 26 |

School Children.

In addition to the usual re-inspections, 173 children in the routine age-groups were examined during the year under review. Of these, 85 (49.13%) were found to be of good nutrition, 80 (46.24%) of normal or fair nutrition, and 8 (4.62%) were found to be of poor nutrition.

Closure of Schools during 1948.

Up to the end of the year, the following school was closed:—

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|----------------|
| Dauntsey | 22.4.48 — 14.5.48 | Measles |
| ,, | 9.12.48 — 21.12.48 | Whooping Cough |

Milk in Schools Scheme.

| | | |
|---|-----|-------|
| Average attendance, October, 1948 | 850 | |
| No. of one-third pints supplied on a day in October, 1948, on the basis of one-third pint per child | 747 | 88.0% |
| Pasteurised milk supplied to | 223 | |
| Tuberculin tested milk supplied to | 351 | |
| Accredited milk supplied to | 173 | |

By the end of 1948, every school had a supply of fresh milk daily, provided free of cost, but limited for the present to one third pint per child.

School milk supplies are sampled by the County Sanitary Inspector for biological examination four times a year, and endeavours are made by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture to undertake clinical examination of the Accredited and Non-Accredited herds four times annually. This is not always possible, however, owing to shortage of staff.

School Meals Service.

Number of children receiving mid-day meals at school.

Full or part payment—385. Free—42.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following number of children have completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December, 1948.

Ages 1 to 4—126. Ages 5 to 14—16.

Total—142.

It is estimated that the following percentage of children have completed a full course of immunisation.

Ages 1 to 4—(40.6%). Ages 5 to 14—(69.2%).

Total—57.9(%).

Mass Radiography.

During January, 1949, the Mobile X-Ray Unit visited the area and operated from the premises of Messrs. E. K. Cole Ltd. Four hundred and thirty nine persons attended for examination, of whom three revealed active, and five revealed inactive tubercular conditions.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).

Only two cases were reported to the Council under the above Section. After very careful consideration, the Council decided that no action should be taken in these cases for the present.

Factories Act, 1937.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises | M-c Line No. | Number on Register | Inspections | Number of Written Notices | Occupiers prosecuted | M-c Line No. |
|--|--------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 1 | 9 | 9 | — | — | 1 |
| 2. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 2 | 22 | 25 | 2 | — | 2 |
| 3. Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Total | | 31 | 34 | 2 | — | — |

2. Cases in which **defects** were found.

| Particulars | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|-------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | to H.M. Inspector | Referred by H.M. Inspector | |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Total | 2 | 2 | — | — | — |